(c) contacting said antigen source of step (b) with said sample of body fluid, so as to obtain a mixture wherein said antigen binds with autoantibody present in said sample of body fluid;

(d) allowing said mixture obtained in step (c) to flow along said substrate of step (a) to said antibody immobilized to said substrate;

(e) providing labeling means so as to permit monitoring of binding of said autoantibodies and said antigen; and

(f) monitoring said binding so as to provide an indication of the presence of said autoantibody in said sample of body fluid;

wherein said autoantibody when present in said sample being screened binds with said antigen in step (c) so that in step (d) binding of the immobilized antibody to said binding site of said antigen is precluded where the autoantibody has bound with the binding site of said antigen in step (c).

152. (New) The method according to claim 151, comprising screening said sample of body fluid for at least first and second autoantibodies to said antigen, wherein at least first and second antibodies to said antigen are immobilized on said substrate in step (a).

153. (New) The method according to claim 152, wherein said antigen comprises:

a first binding site to which either said first autoantibody or said first immobilized antibody binds, whereby in step (d) binding of said first immobilized antibody with said first binding site is precluded where said first autoantibody has bound with said first binding site in step (c); and

a second binding site to which either said second autoantibody or said second immobilized antibody binds, whereby in step (d) binding of said second immobilized antibody with said second binding site is precluded where said second autoantibody has bound to said second binding site in step (c);

wherein said first and second binding sites are distinct sites on said antigen.

154. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said labeling means comprises labeled antigen.

155. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said labeling means comprises a non-immobilized labeled antibody, wherein said non-immobilized labeled antibody binds with said antigen at a binding site distinct from a binding site for either (i) said autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened for or (ii) said immobilized antibody or antibodies, whereby in step (d), antigen is allowed to be bound both to said immobilized antibody and to said non-immobilized antibody.

156. (New) The method according to claim 151, further comprising providing a positive control that is present in the presence or absence of the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

157. (New) The method according to claim 156, wherein the positive control comprises at least one control antibody to the antigen, said control antibody attached to the substrate, wherein said control antibody binds to a site on the antigen distinct from a binding site thereof for the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

158. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said antigen is a thyroid protein.

159. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said antigen is thyroid stimulating hormone receptor.

160. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of thyroid peroxidase and thyroglobulin.

161. (New) The method according to claim 151, further comprising screening for the presence of at least one of thyroid stimulating hormone, thyroxine, tri-iodothyronine and thyroglobulin in said sample of body fluid.

162. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said monitoring comprises observing a colorimetric change dependent on said binding of said autoantibody or autoantibodies with said antigen.

163. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said labeling means is colloidal gold.

164. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said substrate comprises a membrane of nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate or a polyamide.

165. (New) The method according to claim 151, wherein said substrate comprises an application zone provided upstream of said immobilized antibody on said substrate, and wherein said mixture is allowed to flow from said application zone along said substrate to said immobilized antibody.

166. (New) The method according to claim 165, wherein said application zone contains said source of said antigen, and said mixture is obtained by contacting said sample of body fluid with said antigen in said application zone.

167. (New) The method according to claim 166, wherein said substrate further comprises at least one non-immobilized antibody to said antigen , wherein said non-immobilized antibody is provided downstream of said antigen source in said application zone.

168. (New) A method of screening a sample of body fluid for first and / or second autoantibodies to at least one antigen, which method comprises:

(a) providing a first antibody to said antigen, wherein said first antibody is immobilized on a substrate;

(b) providing a second antibody to said antigen, wherein said second antibody is non-immobilized so that said second antibody can flow along said substrate;

(c) providing a source of said at least one antigen, said antigen comprising a first binding site to which either the first autoantibody or the immobilized antibody binds and a second binding site to which either the second autoantibody or the non-immobilized antibody binds;

(d) contacting (i) said antigen source, (ii) said sample of body fluid and simultaneously or successively (iii) said non-immobilized antibody, so as to obtain a mixture wherein said antigen binds with autoantibodies present in said sample of body fluid and / or said non-immobilized antibody;

(e) allowing said mixture obtained in step (d) to flow along said substrate of step (a) to said immobilized antibody;

(f) providing labeling means so as to permit monitoring of binding of said autoantibodies and said antigen; and

(g) monitoring said binding so as to provide an indication of the presence of said autoantibodies in said sample of body fluid;

whereby said first and / or second autoantibodies when present in said sample being screened bind with said first and / or second binding sites of said antigen respectively so that subsequent binding of said immobilized and / or non-immobilized antibodies with said first and / or second binding sites of said antigen respectively is precluded where the first and / or second autoantibodies have previously bound with said first and / or second binding sites of said antigen.

169. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said labeling means comprises labeled second antibody.

170. (New) The method according to claim 168, further comprising providing a positive control that is present in the presence or absence of the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

171. (New) The method according to claim 170, wherein said positive control comprises attaching to the substrate at least one control agent that binds to the at least one non-immobilized antibody.

172. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said antigen is a thyroid protein.

173. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said antigen is thyroid stimulating hormone receptor.

174. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of thyroid peroxidase and thyroglobulin.

175. (New) The method according to claim 168, further comprising screening for the presence of at least one of thyroid stimulating hormone, thyroxine, tri-iodothyronine and thyroglobulin in said sample of body fluid.

176. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said monitoring comprises observing a colorimetric change dependent on said binding of said autoantibody or autoantibodies with said antigen.

177. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said labeling means is colloidal gold.

178. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said substrate comprises a membrane of nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate or a polyamide.

179. (New) The method according to claim 168, wherein said substrate comprises an application zone provided upstream of said immobilized antibody on said

substrate, and wherein said mixture is allowed to flow from said application zone along said substrate to said immobilized antibody.

180. (New) The method according to claim 179, wherein said application zone contains said source of said antigen, and said mixture is obtained by contacting said sample of body fluid with said antigen in said application zone.

181. (New) The method according to claim 180, wherein said substrate further comprises the non-immobilized second antibody to said antigen, wherein said non-immobilized second antibody is provided downstream of said antigen source in said application zone.

182. A kit for screening a sample of body fluid for at least one autoantibody to at least one antigen, which kit comprises:

(a) at least one antibody to said at least one antigen immobilized on a substrate;

(b) a source of said at least one antigen, the antigen having a binding site to which either the immobilized antibody or said autoantibody being screened binds;

(c) means for contacting said antigen source with said sample of body fluid, so as to obtain a mixture wherein said antigen binds with autoantibody present in said sample of body fluid;

(d) means for allowing said mixture to flow along said substrate to said antibody immobilized to said substrate; and

(e) labeling means so as to permit monitoring of binding of said autoantibodies and said antigen, so as to provide an indication of the presence of said autoantibody in said sample of body fluid.

183. (New) The kit according to claim 182 for screening said sample of body fluid for at least first and second autoantibodies to said antigen, wherein said kit comprises at least first and second antibodies to said antigen immobilized on said substrate.

184. (New) The kit according to claim 183, wherein said antigen comprises:

a first binding site to which either said first autoantibody or said first immobilized antibody binds, whereby subsequent binding of said first immobilized antibody with said first binding site is precluded where said first autoantibody has previously bound with said first binding site; and

a second binding site to which either said second autoantibody or said second immobilized antibody binds, whereby subsequent binding of said second immobilized antibody with said second binding site is precluded where said second autoantibody has previously bound to said second binding site;

wherein said first and second binding sites are distinct sites on said antigen.

185. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said labeling means comprises labeled antigen.

186. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said labeling means comprises a non-immobilized labeled antibody, which non-immobilized labeled antibody binds with a site on said antigen distinct from a binding site for either (i) said autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened or (ii) said immobilized antibody or antibodies, whereby antigen is allowed to be bound both to said immobilized antibody and to said non-immobilized labeled antibody.

187. (New) The kit according to claim 182, further comprising a positive control that is present in the presence or absence of the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

188. (New) The kit according to claim 187, wherein the positive control comprises at least one control antibody to the antigen attached to the substrate, wherein the control antibody binds to a site on the antigen distinct from a binding site thereof for the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

189. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said antigen is a thyroid protein.

190. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said antigen is thyroid stimulating hormone receptor.

191. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of thyroid peroxidase and thyroglobulin.

192. (New) The kit according to claim 182, further comprising means for screening for the presence of at least one of thyroid stimulating hormone, thyroxine, tri-iodothyronine and thyroglobulin in said sample of body fluid.

193. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said labeling means is colloidal gold.

194. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said substrate comprises a membrane of nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate or a polyamide.

195. (New) The kit according to claim 182, wherein said substrate comprises an application zone provided upstream of said immobilized antibody on said substrate.

196. (New) The kit according to claim 195, wherein said application zone contains said source of said antigen.

197. (New) The kit according to claim 196, wherein said substrate further comprises at least one non-immobilized antibody to said antigen, wherein said non-immobilized antibody is provided downstream of said antigen source in said application zone.

198. A kit for screening a sample of body fluid for first and / or second autoantibodies to at least one antigen, which method comprises:

(a) a first antibody to said antigen, wherein said first antibody is immobilized on a substrate;

(b) a second antibody to said antigen, wherein said second antibody is non-immobilized so that said second antibody can flow along said substrate when present in a mixture;

(a) a source of said at least one antigen, said antigen comprising a first binding site to which either the first autoantibody or the immobilized antibody binds and a second binding site to which either the second autoantibody or the non-immobilized antibody binds;

(d) means for contacting (i) said antigen source, (ii) said sample of body fluid and simultaneously or successively (iii) said non-immobilized second antibody, so as to obtain a mixture wherein said antigen binds with autoantibodies present in said sample of body fluid and / or said non-immobilized antibody;

(e) means for allowing said mixture to flow along said substrate to said immobilized antibody;

(f) labeling means so as to permit monitoring of binding of said autoantibodies and said antigen, so as to provide an indication of the presence of said autoantibodies in said sample of body fluid.

199. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said labeling means comprises labeled non-immobilized second antibody.

200. (New) The kit according to claim 198, further comprising a positive control that is present in the presence or absence of the autoantibody or autoantibodies being screened.

201. (New) The kit according to claim 200, wherein the positive control comprises at least one control agent attached to the substrate and binds to the at least one non-immobilized antibody.

202. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said antigen is a thyroid protein.

203. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said antigen is thyroid stimulating hormone receptor.

204. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of thyroid peroxidase and thyroglobulin.

205. (New) The kit according to claim 198, further comprising means for screening for the presence of at least one of thyroid stimulating hormone, thyroxine, tri-iodothyronine and thyroglobulin in said sample of body fluid.

206. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said labeling means is colloidal gold.

207. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said substrate comprises a membrane of nitrocellulose, cellulose acetate or a polyamide.

208. (New) The kit according to claim 198, wherein said substrate comprises an application zone provided upstream of said immobilized antibody on said substrate.

209. (New) The kit according to claim 208, wherein said application zone comprises said source of said antigen.

210. (New) The kit according to claim 209, wherein said substrate further comprises the non-immobilized second antibody to said antigen, wherein said non-immobilized second antibody is provided downstream of said antigen source in said application zone.